**TITLE: Embrace the Bigger Picture**

**TEXT:** Jeremiah 29: 11-13

**DATE:** April 1**4**, 2024

**Big Idea:** Focusing on the bigger picture helps us develop and sustain a learner’s heart instead of giving up when we are faced with obstacles and opposition.

**Offering text:** 1 Chronicles 29:12-14

**[S] Are you caught in a life situation that you don't like?**

**[S]** “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. **12**In those days when you pray, I will listen. **13**If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” – Jeremiah 29: 11-13, NLT

**[S]** **EMBRACE THE BIGGER PICTURE!**

**The only source of knowledge is experience.**

**Ginosko - Experiential Knowledge; knowledge that will change you.**

**God is encouraging us to look to Him.**

**[S] I. God’s Sovereignty Provides Hope in Times of Uncertainty.** [v.10-11]

**[S]** **God has the best intentions even in your worst situation.**

**God is painting a bigger picture in our situation.**

**For us to see that bigger picture, we need to have faith.**

**[S]** “If you believe that God overrules all things for good, and only permits evil happenings for good and the achievement of great ends unbeknown to you, then all is well. **All is well because you believe in the sovereignty of God.” - Henry Thomas Hamblin**

**A situation that was force on you.**

**[S]** ‘***Exile***’ essentially means **we are where we don't want to be.**

**[S]** “This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives **he** has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem.” - Jeremiah 29:4

**[S] 5**“Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. **6**Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle! **7**And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.” - Jeremiah 29:5-7

**[S] 8**“This is what the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, the God of Israel, says: “Do not let your prophets and fortune-tellers who are with you in the land of Babylon trick you. Do not listen to their dreams, **9**because they are telling you lies in my name. I have not sent them,” says the Lord. **10**This is what the Lord says: “You will be in Babylon for seventy years. But then I will come and do for you all the good things I have promised, and I will bring you home again.” - Jeremiah 29:8-10

**[S]** **God has a wonderful plan, trust Him!**

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” -Jeremiah 29:11, NLT*

**[S]** “And we know that God causes everything to work togetherfor the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” – Romans 8:28

**Minsan masakit at mahirap ang proseso, pero it will all be worth it in the end.**

**Trust God and never give up.**

**[S] II. God’s Dependability Assures us of His availability.**

**“**In those days when you pray, I will listen. **13**If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me.” - Jeremiah 29:12-13

**[S]** **God is a great listener, talk to Him.** [v.12]

**[S]** "God does nothing except in response to believing prayer." - John Wesley

**[S]** "Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the one who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference." - Max Lucado

**[S]** 1 John 5: 14-15, “This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.**15**And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

**[S]** **God is always available, seek Him!** [*v.13*]

**[S]** “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” -Matthew 7:7

**[S] Focusing on the bigger picture helps us develop and sustain a learner’s heart instead of giving up when we are faced with obstacles and opposition.**